

SPORTS

Dirty Dental numbs RAC 56-52, improves to 4-3



Cpl. Alisha R. Fitzgerald
Damien Robinson, guard and head coach for RAC, attempts to sneak in a lay-up under a Dirty Dental defender in a game at the Air Station's Paul L. Siegmund Fitness Complex Jan. 8. RAC was defeated 56-52 in the game.

CPL. ALISHA R. FITZGERALD
STAFF WRITER

Dirty Dental defeated RAC 56-52 in Tri-Command intramural basketball action at the Air Station's Paul L. Siegmund Fitness Complex Jan. 8.

The win improved Dental's record to 4-3, a seventh-place ranking in the league standings. RAC sunk to 4-4, two slots behind Dental.

Although a seventh-place position may not be considered by most to be a reputable placement, the Dental players have set their sights high, promising to continue to improve, advancing themselves all the way to a league championship.

"Our goals for the season are to get to the playoffs and win the whole thing," said James Barrier, a guard and the head coach for Dental. "We had a couple of set backs at the beginning of the season, but now we are starting to click."

Despite seeming to come together as a team, the win over RAC was not an easy one. Dental retained the lead throughout the game and were up by 19 midway through the second half. Yet, with only two minutes remaining and the lead at 12, RAC proceeded to make a significant run, cutting the lead to only four. That was when Dental was forced to turn up the heat.

"We let them come back and almost take it," said Barrier.

"Teams in the league may not even know who we are right now, but I guarantee by the end of the season, we will have made a lot of noise in the league."
– Damien Robinson, guard and head coach for RAC

"We just took it up a notch and came out with the win."

Although they put forth a valiant effort in the end, the RAC players were understandably disappointed with their overall performance. They felt that Dental should not have even gotten ahead at all.

"We played a horrible first half," said Damien Robinson, guard and head coach for RAC. "We allowed them to get easy transition 'cherry pick' buckets the whole first half."

Although RAC sits lower than Dental in the standings, Robinson and the others are still hopeful about a successful finish.

"We've gotten off to a slow start, but we're progressing really well," he said. "By the time we reach the playoffs, I think we'll be good enough to give a good run to any team in the league."

To simply be able to compete against league veterans such as Over Thirty, RTR and SJA would be a feat, according to Robinson, who helped Weapons finish fourth last year. His RAC team is new to the league, generating some rather basic goals for the season.

"Our schedule gets really tough from here," he said. "We still have six of the top seven teams in the current standings to play. I just want us to finish the season above .500 and have a solid chemistry going by the time the playoffs begin."

Robinson elaborated on some



Cpl. Alisha R. Fitzgerald
Seldon Jackson, guard for RAC, beats a Dirty Dental defender down the court as he attempts to put the finishing touch on a fast break in a game at the Air Station's Paul L. Siegmund Fitness Complex Jan. 8. Dental won the game 56-52, improving their record to 4-3.

areas he hopes his team can improve in, including floor transition and ball movement. After tying up the loose ends, he hopes to have raised a few eyebrows.

"Teams in the league may not even know who we are right now, but I guarantee by the end of the season, we will have made a lot of noise in the league," promised Robinson.

As RAC proceeds to brush up their game, Barrier and his

Dental teammates will be setting out to accomplish one simple goal of their own this season.

"We want the Hospital," said Barrier. "We want to show that Dental is the best Navy team in the Tri-Command."

Dental is scheduled to play H&HS PMO "A" Tuesday at 9 p.m., while RAC will be facing off with defending league champions Over Thirty Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Youth basketball league opens; Celtics, Storm take home wins

LANCE CPL. BRIAN KESTER
STAFF WRITER

The Celtics and the Storm, teams in the 11- and 12-year-old age group of the Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina youth basketball league, opened the season with wins at Laurel Bay Saturday.

The Celtics, behind the scoring of Andrew Vrancic, pulled off a 16 - 8 win over the visiting Sixers in the boys' league. While the Storm was victorious over the visiting Bluffton 2 Hoop Stars 20 - 6.

The Celtics managed to get an early 6 - 0 lead as they took control offensively. That control carried them to the eventual win.

"We let them shoot way too much," said Alfredo Soto, coach for the Sixers. "We will need more work on our defense."

Even with the loss, Soto was pleased with the effort his team put out.

"Even though this is our first year in competition with this league, it was a good game and I am proud of them," he said.

For Celtics Coach James C. Hawkins, the game was a measuring stick for his team's stature.

"A lot of the kids haven't played before, so this is kind of a preliminary test for them," he said.

Along with the basic fundamentals, Hawkins introduced new schemes to the players.

"I try to rotate them in and out so that everyone has a chance to play," he said. "We want them to get used to a five-on-five game with substitutions."

The second game, between the Storm and the Hoop Stars, was decided early, behind the scoring prowess of Jennifer Smith, who led her team with 12 points.

The Storm managed a significant first half lead and never relinquished it. The Hoop Stars looked to be picking up the pace offensively and defensively at the end of the half as

they brought the score to 10 - 4. Their momentum did not last long, however, as they gave up 10 more points to the Storm and scored only two points the entire second half.

"We practiced the fundamentals, but they just didn't get it today," said Russell Howey, coach for the Hoop Stars. "We will be practicing more as a team and stick with the fundamentals and hopefully get better."

Howey also attributed a diminished roster to the loss.

"We had a team of five players because of several absences, he said. "They just got tired out there."

The Storm, on the other hand, seems to have found its niche early, without much preparation.

"We practiced the fundamentals, but we didn't have much time to pre-

pare," said Sonia Perez, a coach for the Storm. "We were only able to have three practices."

Perez felt that her team needed to stay in position more, but had the excitement level that the coaches wanted.

"They get so excited that everyone wants the ball," she said.

Joseph Garza, a coach for the Storm, said he was pleased with the team's overall performance, but would like the girls to become more organized.

"We need to slow down the game and try to bring about fewer break-aways," said Garza.


The Celtics took on the Lakers at the Depot MCCS-SC gym Thursday while the Storm will play Bluffton 1 in Bluffton Saturday.



Lance Cpl. Brian Kester



Lance Cpl. Brian Kester
(Above) Symone Fortner, Storm forward, passes the ball to a teammate in a game against the Hoop Stars at the Laurel Bay Youth Center Saturday. The early lead contributed to the Storm winning, 20 - 6. (Left) Roderick Shuman, Sixers guard, takes a defensive stance against the Celtics at the Laurel Bay Youth Center Saturday. Despite their best efforts the Sixers fell, 16 - 8.



MCCS-SC Intramural Volleyball League

Play begins Feb. 3, All DoD ID card holders eligible

Mandatory coaches meeting Wed. at 4 p.m in the Fitness Center

